

SRI K. H. RANGANATH (Minister for Co-operation).—

(a) Yes.

(b) Enquiry completed and report submitted on 20th January 1975.

1. Surcharge proceeding initiated.
2. Recoveries are being effected.
3. In respect of Stock shortages arbitration cases filed and awards obtained and recoveries effected in some cases.

### CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

(i) *re : enhancing the rates of eatables in hotels*

SRI M. S. KRISHNAN (Malleswaram).—Madam Speaker, I wish to call the attention of the Minister for Food and Civil Supplies to the recent Government order enhancing the rates of eatables in hotels.

SMT. E. E. VAZ (Minister for Food and Civil Supplies).—I wish to state as follows :—

The recommendation of the working group constituted by Government to go into the question of price structure in hotels, was accepted and released to the Press on 24th June 1976. Instructions were issued to all the hotels, restaurants and catering establishments to adopt these rates.

After the introduction of these rates, a number of organisations connected with this industry and M.L.As represented to Government in this matter. They represented that the present fixation of price works as a hardship to the hotel industry and requested that hotels may be classified taking into consideration certain factors like investment, size of operation, facilities offered to the customers, etc. They also represented that certain categories of hotels have to be granted exemption from the operation of price fixation. In addition, the Director-General, Department of Tourism, Government of India, wrote to the State Government to consider the representations made by the South India Hotels and Restaurants Association, Madras in the matter, on the ground that it affected tourism.

The smaller hotels represented to Government that their customers have been drawn away to better places because of the similar rate structure in big hotels where more facilities are offered. The bigger hotels represented to Government that there is very high pressure on their services.

Taking into consideration all the circumstances including the price level at the time the revised orders were passed and in order to ensure that the hotel industry on which many people depend will be able to run on economic lines, Government decided that the entire matter should be reviewed and the system of classification be adopted.

The various criteria for classification were examined in great detail. It was felt that the classification adopted on the basis of turnover of sales-tax was appropriate and Government decided to adopt accordingly.

The criteria adopted for classification was turnover. This was adopted in view of the simplicity of identification based on the sales-tax reports. The system of classification is as follows :—

Class A Hotel	...	Turnover of Rs. 5.00 lakhs and above per annum.
Class B Hotel	...	Turnover of Rs. 2.00 lakhs to Rs. 5.00 lakhs per annum.
Class C Hotel	...	Turnover of Rs. 75,000 to Rs. 2.00 lakhs per annum.
Class D Hotel	...	Turnover upto Rs. 75,000 per annum

The limit of Rs. 75,000 as the starting point has been adopted since hotels with this turnover have the benefit of compounding their sales-tax liability.

The turnover referred to here will include both lodging, boarding and restaurants.

All hotels classified as Class A having a turnover of Rs. 5.00 lakhs and above per annum will be exempt from the system of rate structure.

The rate structure will be adopted for hotels classified as B and C and D. The current rate-structure will be adopted for hotels classified as D. The rate structure for Class C hotels may be 10 paise over the rates fixed for Class D hotels. The rate structure for Class B hotels may be 15 paise over that prescribed for Class D hotels.

For class B, C and D hotels the same extra charges for air-conditioning and car service, if available, as prescribed earlier, will be permitted.

Class B, C and D hotels will continue to have the benefit of choice of items from among the total number of items specified under the earlier instructions.

Government will, however, continuously watch the situation specially the quality and quantity of foodstuff supplied in hotels and if prices were to rise to unreasonable levels, necessary action will again be taken.

SRI M.S. KRISHNAN.—I Put some questions about this. It is really strange that such a statement has been given by the Hon. Minister and I consider that this is a total surrender of the Government to the Hotel owners against the wishes of the people and the common man in the State particularly in Bangalore city because here was a working group which had been constituted of which I also happen to be a Member and I think hon. Member Mr. Shamanna was also a member and this question of classification had been gone into whether there should be classification or should not be classification. They gone into great detail. In this Study Group, not only M.L.As, but also all the leading owners of the Hotels in the Bangalore City and the State were also there. The Chairman was the Commissioner for Food and Civil Supplies. An expert of the Food Crafts Institute was also there. They gone into these things in great detail and decided that such a classification is not necessary. Having given such a report, whether was the necessity for this Government and the Hon. Minister to revise it in this hasty manner without consulting the Working Group which had gone into great detail about the hotel rates ?

SMT. E. E. VAZ.—I have given answers to all his questions in the statement that have already made.

SRI M. S. KRISHNAN.—The hon. Minister did not answer my very first question—Where was the necessity for you to change the entire thing even without asking the Working Group ?

According to the statement made by the Hon. Minister it is the persons connected with the industry who have asked the Government to revise it. Every representation that has come here is only from the Hotel Industry people. Is there any representation made by the people of the State saying that these Hotel rates are too high and it must be reduced ?

SMT. E. E. VAZ — The interest of the common man had been very well protected because common mans' hotels have been kept under certain price structure where things are available in plenty. People who are prepared to pay more can go to big hotels.

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ. ಎಸ್. ಕೃಷ್ಣನ್.—ವರ್ಕಿಂಗ್ ಗ್ರೂಪ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಇದ್ದವರನ್ನೂ ಕೇಳಲಿಲ್ಲಾ, ನಮ್ಮನ್ನೂ ಕೇಳಲಿಲ್ಲಾ ನೀವೇ ತೀರ್ಮಾನ ಮಾಡಿಬಿಟ್ಟಿದ್ದೀರಿ? ಅರಿತು ಇಷ್ಟುಬಂದ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೀರ್ಮಾನ ಮಾಡುವುದು ಸರಿಯೇ ? ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನಲ್ಲರುವ ಜನರನ್ನು ಯಾರನ್ನಾದರೂ ಕೇಳಿ ಈಗ ಇರತಕ್ಕಂಥ ಹೋಟೆಲ್ ದರಗಳು ಮೊದಲಿಗಿಂತ ಹಾಸಿ ಇದೆಯೇ ಎಂದು ನೀವು ಬೇಕಾದುದರಿಂದ ವರ್ತನೆ

ಮಾಡಿ ಈ ರೀತಿ ನಡೆದುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದೀರಿ, ಬೇಕಾದರೆ ಯಾರನ್ನಾದರೂ ಕೇಳಿ. ನಾವು ಕಮಿಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಗಲು ರಾತ್ರಿ ಕಷ್ಟಪಟ್ಟು ಈ ವಿಚಾರಗಳನ್ನೆಲ್ಲಾ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿ ಒಂದು ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಕೊಟ್ಟಿದ್ದೆವು. ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ನೀವು ಬೇರೆ ರೀತಿಯಾಗಿ ಈ ತರಹ ತೀರ್ಮಾನ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡಿರುವುದು ಸರಿಯೇ ?

SMT E. E. VAZ —The working Group was formed at one point of time. It was not a permanent body to be consulted as an Advisory Committee.

SRI M. S. KRISHNAN. It may not have been a Standing Committee but it is a Committee consisting of representatives of the people, the M. L. As and representatives of Hotel Industry. You cannot just treat them as children. But, unfortunately, you treated them as children.

SRI H. D. DEVE GOWDA.—The Hon Minister is also a representative of people, i.e., common man.

ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ. ಎಂ. ನಾಗಣ್ಣ.— ಸ್ವಾಮಿ, ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು ಮಾಡಿದ ತಪ್ಪಿನಿಂದ ಈ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆ ಉದ್ಭವಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರಣವಾಯಿತು. ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರು ಮೊದಲು ಏನುಮಾಡಿದರು ಹೋಟೆಲ್ ಎಂದರೆ ಇಂಡಸ್ಟ್ರೀಸ್ ಕೆಲವರು ತಮ್ಮ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ಜಾಸ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಅದನ್ನು ಕಡಿಮೆ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು. ಎಂದು ಹೊರಟರು. ಮೊದಲು ತಾವು ಎನು ಮಾಡಿದಿರಿ ಎಂದರೆ ಇಡ್ಲಿಯನ್ನು '0 ಪೈಸೆಗೆ ಕೊಡಬೇಕು ಅಂತ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಅಮೇರಿ ಅವರಿಂದ ಒಂದು ರೆಪ್ರೆಸೆಂಟೇಷನ್ ಬಂತು. ಅನಂತರ ರೆಪ್ರೆಸೆಂಟೇಷನ್ ಬಂದ ಮೇರೆ ನೀವು ಬೆಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಮತ್ತಷ್ಟು ವಿಪರೀತವಾಗಿ ಜಾಸ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದೀರಿ. ಒಂದೊಂದು ಕ್ಲಾಸ್‌ಗೂ 10 ಪೈಸೆ, 20 ಪೈಸೆ, 30 ಪೈಸೆ ಜಾಸ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದೀರಿ. ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರು ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಕೈಹಾಕಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಈಗತಿ ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಆದುದರಿಂದ ದಯಮಾಡಿ ಇನ್ನು ಮುಂದಾದರೂ ಯಾವುದಲ್ಲ ಅನುಭವ ಇದೆಯೋ ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಕೈಹಾಕಿ ಅನುಭವ ಇಲ್ಲವೇ ಇರುವ ಕಡೆ ಕೈ ಹಾಕದೇ ನುಮ್ಮನೇ ಇರುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನ ಮಾಡುತ್ತೀರಾ ?

ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಇ. ಇ. ವಾಹ್.— ಈ ಒಂದು ಗುತ್ತಮವಾದ ಸಲಹೆಯನ್ನು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಕೊಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಬಂಡಿತವಾಗಿಯೂ ಅದರಂತೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮಾಡುತ್ತದೆ.

(ii) *re: hardships to the patients in giving effect to the Referral System in various Hospitals at Bangalore.*

SRI T. R. SHAMANNA (Fort).—I Call the attention of the Minister for Health to the hardship caused to the patients in giving effect to the referral system in various Hospitals at Bangalore.

SRI H. M. CHANNABASAPPA (Minister for Health).—Sir I wish to state as follows:

The concept of the Referral System is based on the premise that a patient has to be treated near his home in a peripheral dispensary and referred to another big hospital only if need be for specialist outpatient or inpatient services or investigation. Most of the people who visit a doctor need a patient and sympathetic hearing, a proper examination and proper explanation from the Doctors; they would get satisfactory treatment and advice at the initial / primary care,